

NOTE TO THE FACULTY BOARD

To: Faculty of Medicine

From: Centre for Global Health

Attachments: 3

Date of meeting: 8.5.18

Case title: Consolidated plan for the Centre for Global Health (CGH)

Purpose / Why is the matter promoted:

After two years with the present management, the CGH has mapped the global health work taking place at UiO and at the Faculty of Medicine in particular. In consultation with the dean and head of institute, it has been decided to revise the strategy for the next 5 years.

Included in these plans is a new support programme for Global Health research groups at the Faculty of Medicine (RELIGHT).

Case presentation:

Please see attachment 1 for a brief case presentation, attachment 2 for an overall plan for the consolidation phase, attachment 3 for a brief description of the new support programme for Global Health research groups.

Proposed resolution:

The Centre for Global Health's consolidation plans are supported by the Faculty Board.

Attachment 1:

The Centre for Global Health (CGH) would like to present a plan for the consolidation phase based on experiences and progression since April 2016.

Vision

The mission of the CGH is to facilitate high quality scientific contributions and education in the area of Global Health by strengthening the interdisciplinary cooperation internally at the Faculty of Medicine and with other leading academic institutions that work on Global Health. The vision of the CGH is to build sustainable research excellence in selected Global Health research areas that, in addition to its scientific value, reaches into society and influences policy in the Global Health Arena in Norway and abroad, thereby becoming a leading national and international Global Health network/institution..

Objectives

- A) To support specifically selected eager and upcoming research groups that are in an early phase but have the potential for excellence and to become sustainable on a long term basis (see attachment 2 and 3).
- B) To support and offer strategic collaboration with the CGH to an already existing and successful global research group for long term sustainability (see attachment 2).
- (C) To support and offer strategic collaboration with CGH to an already existing and successful national/international research group to move to the global level (see attachment 2).
- (D) To facilitate the success for Global Health research and education activities at the Faculty of Medicine through a visible and active communication platform.
- (E) To facilitate elective Global Health courses within the Faculty of Medicine PhD programme.
- (F) To contribute to high level scientific publications in Global Health with special emphasis on an invited The Lancet commission on One-Health and an article series on Global Health and in the Scandinavian Journal of Public Health.
- (G) To support training of the next generation in Global Health through administrative internships, scientific mentorship and high-quality Masters, PhD and Post Doc supervisions/mentoring.

Implementation / Progress Plan

- To engage three upcoming and promising research groups meeting the criteria A above in the proposed new support programme called Research Excellence and Innovation in Global Health (RELIGHT) programme (attachment 3);
- To motivate research groups to participate in the RELIGHT programme, these groups will receive NOK 100,000 annually in seed grain for three years;
- The groups wishing to participate in the RELIGHT initiative must make a project plan and will be finally selected on the basis of quality in the project plan;
- To provide mentorship and leadership training (refer to criteria B above);

- To facilitate Global Health activities through an active and professional communication platform (webpages, social media, dissemination) with especial emphasis of criteria A-B above;
- To organize and coordinate the elective Global Health courses within the Faculty of Medicine PhD programme
- To facilitate for the organization and execution of The Lancet commission on One-Health and the article series and Scandinavian Journal of Public Health

Attachment 2:

Centre for Global Health 2018 – the consolidation phase

Introduction

In response to the calls for more efficient and collaborative knowledge production and in line with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, the scale and scope of global health research has grown dramatically in Norway and the rest of the world. The idea that researchers should work in collaboration has significantly reconfigured health research, with additional impetus given by claims that global health research collaborations have the potential to play a significant role in addressing global health disparities. The Medical Faculty (MedFac) of the University of Oslo (UiO) aims to be at the forefront of this strive to address the global health challenges of today.

The focus of the Centre for Global Health (CGH) is to support and link the existing strong knowledge base of Global Health research at MedFac to relevant networks, and human and financial resources, while further enhancing Global Health research capacity within the university. Another key function of CGH is to effectively disseminate information to the wider community of researchers, decision makers and the public, while enhancing the profile of MedFac through high quality events, communication and reporting. In addition, active participation of CGH in national Global Health forums and international networks further supports and develops the role of MedFac in these organisations and promotes access to novel and innovative funding sources.

The 2018 CGH action plan aims to prioritise and advance existing resources and expertise of MedFac and to provide a platform for effective and fruitful collaboration between research groups within Global Health. By concurrently supporting individual research groups while strengthening interdisciplinary cooperation at the UiO, CGH aims to enhance the research capacity in alignment with MedFac activities and to facilitate development of sustainable solutions to current and future Global Health challenges.

Priority areas

CGH has been in full operation since April 2016 and during this period has accumulated detailed knowledge on the exiting Global Health research capacity at MedFac and in other units. After a thorough review of existing current and on-going Global Health research, the CGH would like to recommend a specific focus on the following goals:

1. To support eager and upcoming research groups that are in an early phase but have the potential for excellence and to become sustainable on a long term basis.

CGH proposes to support a strong level of involvement within the areas of Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Global Digital Health. These topics are both relevant content wise, through the groups and their leaders and the surrounding landscape. It is a well-known fact that the world is eager to solve the problem of AMR at a global level and to move the strong push towards digitalization from a national to a global level. Consequently, the research environment will be very friendly for these two research areas in the years to come. Within the CGH and the Institute of Health and Society, we have already reacted to this overall movement and have established networks with hungry researchers that have established themselves within the themes and have what we consider to be a promising potential and the drive to move to the global scale. The CGH support will include a strong level of involvement in terms of application writing, adding a stronger global health focus, liaise people and groups into relevant research environments that can compete for the larger funding schemes (Jebsen Centre, CoE, EU grants etc).

- AMR: Recently, an AMR network has been established in the Dep. of Community Medicine and Global Health spearheaded and led by key members of the CGH team. Resources allocated to this group consist of the two faculty post docs who together with the CGH and strong partners from Germany and Sweden have submitted an EU pre-proposal on global AMR on 7/3-18.
- Global Digital Health: The Dep. of Informatics has reached out to CGH with the suggestion to link DHIS2 to global health in future collaborations and research applications, thereby investing into activities at MedFac. CGH is central in a recent Global Digital Health application sent to GLOBVAC with HISP. In addition, the CGH is part of a 60 mill. NOK grant by the NRC with the Dep. of Informatics and the Basic Internet Foundation granting a PhD position to Helsam on Digital Health in Tanzania.

2. To support and offer strategic collaboration with CGH to an already existing and successful global research group for long term sustainability.

The Norwegian Global Health landscape has put an emphasis on global maternal & child health as well as infectious disease and vaccination for decades. As a consequence, we have a strong maternal & child health hub emerging around Prof. Johanne Sundby with a strong support base at HELSAM. As Sundby is approaching retirement, CGH would like to assist in planning what kind of competence is needed for the next five years to help make the transition. Although there is already a strong team of five younger women in the group, we want to bring this up to a sustainable level. After consultations with relevant people, we will focus on one of these five women and build her up to be a strong successor of Sundby by offering mentorship, strategic advice, travel support, event organizing and institutional backing.

3. To support and offer strategic collaboration with CGH to an already existing and successful national/international research group to move to the global level.

CGH proposes to offer a strategic platform for particularly successful groups like the infectious disease group at OUS to showcase their achievements to the global health community with a bidirectional benefit for them and the Centre. CGH can contribute with a custom made support package to increase the group's ability to open up to

collaborators at a global level and to give the framework to showcase their activities to a wider community, thereby attracting young national and international researchers into the field.

Conclusion

After the initial establishment phase of the CGH we are now ready to move towards a

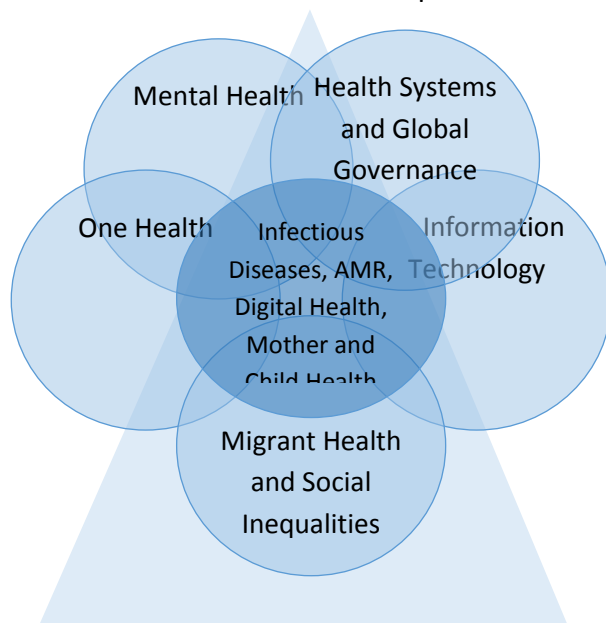


Figure 1. Priority areas for seed funding within CGH signatory themes

consolidation period and have chosen priority areas where financial investment and support through the CGH will focus on capacity building for excellence. The areas outlined above have already established successful research activities at MedFac and other faculties at different levels, together with the potential for collaborations with strategic global partners as defined by MedFac, i.e. South Africa and Ethiopia. In addition, infectious diseases with their various facets (e.g. emerging diseases and neglected tropical diseases), AMR, Digital Health and Mother & Child Health are very high on the global political agenda, which is reflected by funding provided by national and EU schemes. This can also offer realistic potential to not only leverage Global Health but also national health research priorities, e.g. primary health care (Figure 1).

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Attachment 3:

Research Excellence and Innovation in Global Health (RELIGHT)

The journey from establishing well-functioning research groups towards global excellence requires dedication from individual researchers, research groups and support from their faculties and institutions. This is why the Centre for Global Health (CGH) under the leadership of and strong support from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Oslo (UiO) has designed the Research Excellence and Innovation in Global Health (RELIGHT) programme. RELIGHT is created to assist promising and upcoming research groups in advancing their Global Health agenda, becoming global leaders in their fields and thereby reaching the status of research and innovation excellence. The assistance is given by supporting select groups with seed funding and leadership mentoring.

Building on ongoing initiatives to support research activities at the UiO, for example the Life Sciences-led SPARK initiative (add link), the CGH's RELIGHT program is focused on providing support for sustainable research and innovation within the field of Global Health at the Faculty of Medicine, UiO.

The RELIGHT programme is designed to provide upcoming research groups with opportunities for further success and excellence. RELIGHT will award research funding for three years, which will **facilitate capacity towards receiving external funding and becoming a global leader with potential for obtaining excellence status** such as Jebsen Centres, Centres of Excellence or equivalent, in Norway. Three applications will be selected based on criteria to be developed.. Each group will receive 300.000 NOK during their three years in RELIGHT. Based on a re-evaluation after three years, groups can re-apply for a new period.